

GP 2161



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Peter Van Horne, et al.  
 SERIAL NO.: 09/848,534  
 FILING DATE: May 2, 2001  
 TITLE: COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK CONNECTION SYSTEM  
 AND METHOD  
 EXAMINER: (to be assigned)  
 ART UNIT: 2161

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class  
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Each item of information listed in the attached FORM PTO-1449, for which a  
 copy of each is attached, may be material to the examination of the above-identified  
 application and is, therefore, submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure defined  
 in 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The Examiner is requested to make these items of  
 official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one or more of these items constitutes prior art.

## I

This statement is filed pursuant to:

( X ) 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

This information disclosure statement is filed either (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d); (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application; (3) before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, or (4) before the mailing of a first office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, whichever event occurs last.

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires no fee and no certification.

( ) 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

This information disclosure statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b), but before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; (2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires either the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c) (\$180); or a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e).

( ) 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

This information disclosure statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c).

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) to consider an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) (\$180), and a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

If this statement crosses in the mail with an office action, or is otherwise not in the indicated category of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, it is respectfully requested that this statement be treated in the next appropriate category and made of record. To the extent required, please treat this paper as a conditional petition for acceptance of the information disclosure statement.

## II

- ( X ) No fee is due.
- ( ) The fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) is enclosed (\$180).

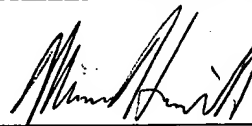
Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment to our deposit account number 50-1698.

## III

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) , I certify:

- ( X ) No certification is necessary.
- ( ) (1) Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information statement; or
- ( ) (2) No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP



Marc S. Hanish  
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Dated: 12/16/03

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

Serial No.  
09/848,534

### Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant

Applicant: Peter Van Horne, et al.

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Filed: May 2, 2001

Group: 2161

## U.S. Patent Documents

[illegible]

## Foreign Documents

[illegible]

**Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

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Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.